

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING**  
**February 28, 2005**  
**0730 hours**  
**801 Burlington, Ante Room**

Members in Attendance:

Sue McConnell, Commissioner  
Stan Urban, Commissioner  
Chief Phil Ruscetti, DGFD  
Deputy Chief Bob Tutko, DGFD  
Deputy Chief Jim Jackson, DGFD

Rick Ginex / Village Manager  
Mike Baker / Asst. Village Manager  
Enza Petrarca / Village Attorney  
Battalion Chief Jeff Pindelski / DGFD  
Fire Marshal Bill Mierzejewski/Fire Prevention Bureau

Meeting called to order by Commissioner McConnell at 0730 hours.

First agenda item Comm. McConnell addressed was the concern regarding overtime and staffing. Discussion concerning "19" as the minimum daily staffing ensued. Neither Commissioners Urban or McConnell felt the council or community would accept lower levels than "19".

In response to the Commissioners requests during the Budget meeting of 1/12/05, Chief Ruscetti distributed to Comm. McConnell, Comm. Urban and Village Manager Ginex a notebook with work studies on each of the DGFD chiefs as well as documentation and informational pages; a notebook with documentation regarding staffing within the DGFD; and a notebook with data regarding studies on overtime in the DGFD.

Both commissioners requested a chance to read this information before a thorough conversation regarding staffing, overtime, the budget and how to proceed as the best balance of overtime and staff positions.

Discussion ensued regarding the past fiscal year's excessive amount of injuries, disabilities, and sickness along with other personnel disciplinary issues that have occurred resulting in overtime hire backs. Other issues discussed were the aging of the members of the department causing more available accumulated sick and vacation time.

Comm. McConnell requested input from the Fire Department Chiefs for recommendations for how this problem could be dealt with and/or solved. Chief Ruscetti advised he and his staff have already developed some "outside the box" thoughts on this subject that they would like to discuss with the commissioners.

Comm. McConnell also brought up a theory that had been discussed a year or two ago with another Village department regarding “turnover credit” and requested from Asst. Village Manager Baker a report of a similar nature for the fire department.

Village Manager Ginex queried whether a survey had been done regarding overtime in other fire departments’ in surrounding communities and/or of fire departments around the same size within this area. Deputy Chief Tutko advised he had not but would call surrounding fire departments. DC Tutko did mention that Oak Park FD does not have any overtime instead they shut down their Squad for the day when they do not have enough personnel to man the equipment. DC Tutko felt this was feasible but that you could not rely on mutual aid as a remedy to our own overtime/budget problems. After discussion, it appears based on the current information provided, that the addition of any line positions for this year is not recommended, assuming that the overtime costs are balanced by the reduced salaries and fringe as is expected from the report to be generated by Make Baker.

Comm. McConnell queried how the budget committed \$107,000 for “capital projects” were coming. DC Tutko gave an overview of each project. He also advised that there was some miscommunication regarding what constitutes “capital project” monies. For the record, Comm. McConnell advised that the \$107,000 was intended for improvements – roof, kitchens, baths, etc. for the fire stations for remodeling and maintenance issues. Comm. McConnell would like updated plans regarding maintenance of all FD facilities. Comm. McConnell also advised DC Tutko to send information concerning these projects to her where appropriate.

In response to Mayor Krajewski’s question to Deputy Chief Jackson regarding the Fire Department Chief and Deputy Chiefs attending Masters’ classes twice a week, Chief Ruscetti would like his answer to be on public record, neither the chief or deputy chiefs are currently enrolled in and taking Masters classes.

Chief Ruscetti invited all to come out to the 801 parking lot to see the newly delivered fire engine.

Next tentative meeting with Public Safety Committee and the Police Department is March 17, 2005.

Meeting Adjourned at 0850 hours.

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